CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   In an apparatus including a display, a method of operation comprising:

2   displaying first execution results of a first plurality of applications in a first

3   plane of a metaphoric desktop; and

4   displaying second execution results of a second plurality of applications in a

5   second plane of the metaphoric desktop.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said second plurality of applications are on-

2   line applications, and the method further comprises monitoring for the apparatus

3   being connected on-line.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises morphing

2   from said first plane of the metaphoric desktop to the second plane of the

3   metaphoric desktop in response to detection of a predetermined event.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein said morphing comprises animating a 180

2   degree rotation of the metaphoric desktop over a selected one of a diagonal axis, a

3   vertical axis and a horizontal axis.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein said morphing comprises animating a

2   plurality of 180 degree rotations of a plurality of portions of the metaphoric desktop

3   over a selected one of a plurality of corresponding vertical axes and a plurality of

4   corresponding horizontal axes.

1 6.   The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second planes are front and

2 back planes of the metaphoric desktop.

1 7.   The method of claim 1, wherein

2   said displaying of first execution results of the first plurality of applications in a

3 first plane of a metaphoric desktop comprises storing pictorial representations of

4 said first execution results into a standard display screen buffer by a graphics

5 services; and

6   said displaying of second execution results of the second plurality of

7 applications in a second plane of the metaphoric desktop comprises redirecting said

8 graphics service to store pictorial representations of said first execution results of

9 said first plurality of applications to an alternate display screen buffer, and storing

10 pictorial representations of said second execution results of said second plurality of

11 applications into said standard display screen buffer.

1 8.   The method of claim 7, wherein

2   said second plurality of applications are on-line applications; and

3   said redirecting of said graphics service to store pictorial representations of

4 said first execution results of said first plurality of applications to an alternate display

5 screen buffer, and subsequent storing of pictorial representations of said second

6 execution results of said second plurality of applications into said standard display

7 screen buffer, are initially performed in response to said apparatus being connected

8 on-line.

1   9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises resuming said

2   storing of pictorial representations of said first execution results of said first plurality

3   of applications to said standard display screen buffer by said graphics service.

1   10.   The method of claim 9, wherein said resumption are performed in response

2   to a user request to return to said first plane of said metaphoric desktop.

1   11.   An apparatus comprising

2   storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions

3   designed to display first execution results of a first plurality of applications in a first

4   plane of a metaphoric desktop, and second execution results of a second plurality of

5   applications in a second plane of the metaphoric desktop; and

6   a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming

7   instructions.

1   12.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said second plurality of applications are

2   on-line applications, and the programming instructions are further designed to

3   monitor for the apparatus being connected on-line.

1   13.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said programming instructions are further

2   designed to morph from said first plane of the metaphoric desktop to the second

3   plane of the metaphoric desktop in response to detection of a predetermined event.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said programming instructions are

2   designed to effectuate said morphing by animating a 180 degree rotation of the

3   metaphoric desktop over a selected one of a diagonal axis, a vertical axis and a

4   horizontal axis.

1   15.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said programming instructions are

2   designed to effectuate said morphing by animating a plurality of 180 degree

3   rotations of a plurality of portions of the metaphoric desktop over a selected one of a

4   plurality of corresponding vertical axes and a plurality of corresponding horizontal

5   axes.

1   16.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first and second planes are front and

2   back planes of the metaphoric desktop.

1   17.   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said programming instructions are

2   designed to effectuate

3   said displaying of first execution results of the first plurality of applications in a

4   first plane of a metaphoric desktop by storing pictorial representations of said first

5   execution results into a standard display screen buffer by a graphics services, and

6   said displaying of second execution results of the second plurality of

7   applications in a second plane of the metaphoric desktop by redirecting said

8   graphics service to store pictorial representations of said first execution results of

9   said first plurality of applications to an alternate display screen buffer, and storing

10   pictorial representations of said second execution results of said second plurality of

11   applications into said standard display screen buffer.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 17, wherein

2   said second plurality of applications are on-line applications; and

3   said programming instructions are designed to initially perform said

4   redirecting of said graphics service to store pictorial representations of said first

5   execution results of said first plurality of applications to an alternate display screen

6   buffer, and subsequent storing of pictorial representations of said second execution

7   results of said second plurality of applications into said standard display screen

8   buffer, in response to said apparatus being connected on-line.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the programming instructions are further

2   designed to resume said storing of pictorial representations of said first execution

3   results of said first plurality of applications to said standard display screen buffer by

4   said graphics service.

1   20.   The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said programming instructions are

2   designed to perform said resumption in response to a user request to return to said

3   first plane of said metaphoric desktop.

1   21.   A graphical user interface comprising:

2   a metaphoric desktop having a first and a second plane;

3   the first plane being used to display execution results of a first plurality of

4   applications; and

5   the second plane being used to display execution results of a second plurality

6   of applications.

1   22.   The graphical user interface of claim 21, wherein the graphical user interface

2   further includes the metaphoric desktop morphing from a selected one of the first

3   and second planes to the other.

1   23.   The graphical user interface of claim 21, wherein said morphing comprises a

2   180 degree rotation of the metaphoric desktop over a selected one of a diagonal

3   axis, a vertical axis and a horizontal axis.

1   24.   The graphical user interface of claim 21, wherein said morphing comprises a

2   plurality of 180 degree rotations of a plurality of portions of the metaphoric desktop

3   over a selected one of a plurality of corresponding vertical axes and a plurality of

4   corresponding horizontal axes.

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